

Remarks/Arguments

35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Manson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,543,051 B1) (“Manson”), in view of Ganzer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5, 121,430) (“Ganzer”), in view of Naidoo et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,185,282 B1) (“Naidoo”).

It is respectfully asserted that none of Manson, Ganzer, or Naidoo, alone or in combination, disclose a television signal receiving apparatus:

“wherein, responsive to a first depression of said single user interface button when said television signal receiver is in an “off” state and said emergency alert function is activated, said processing means perform steps comprising turning said television signal receiver to an “on” state and presenting information based on said emergency alert signals, and wherein, responsive to a second depression of said single user input button, said processing means cause said television signal receiving apparatus to be returned to an “off” state,”

as described in currently amended claim 1.

Among the problems addressed by the present invention is the confusing nature of the user interfaces of devices like television receivers which include emergency alert functionality. For example, multiple user input buttons and lights may render the emergency alert function more difficult for users to operate. In particular, users may be confused as to what buttons to use in order to control various aspects of the emergency alert function. Also, for certain apparatuses such as high-end, low-volume television signal receivers, the inclusion of multiple user input buttons and lights on the front panel may be prohibitive on the basis of increased tooling costs. In particular, since such television signal receivers are produced in relatively low volumes, any significant tool change, such as one necessary to accommodate a plurality of additional buttons and lights, can be cost prohibitive. Moreover, a key selling feature of such high-end television signal receivers is a

very clean, slick front panel appearance, namely one that is not cluttered with multiple buttons and lights. (Specification, page 2, lines 15-28)

To address these problems, the present application describes an improved means for controlling the emergency alert function. A single user input button related to the emergency alert function is provided on the device. In an exemplary embodiment, when the single user input button is depressed when the television signal receiver is in an "off" state and the emergency alert function is activated, the television signal receiver processor perform steps comprising turning the television signal receiver on and presenting information based on the emergency alert signals. A subsequent depression of the single user input button causes the television signal receiving apparatus to then be returned to an "off" state.

Manson is concerned with the insertion of messages into the overall television distribution infrastructure, not with control of an emergency alert function at the television signal receiver, as is the case with the present invention. Specifically, Manson teaches "a system for inputting conventional emergency alert messages into a digital subscriber television system. The method allows existing emergency alert equipment to interface with the digital system equipment in the headend of a digital subscriber television system. A unique identifier and the format of the digital emergency alert message allow the input of an emergency alert message and allow for a wide variety of optional data formats, system control options, and data storage options." (Manson Abstract)

Manson does not disclose a single button emergency alert interface which will turn a receiver on and present alert information upon a first press and return the receiver to an off state upon a second press. Therefore, Manson fails to disclose a television signal receiving apparatus "wherein, responsive to a first depression of said single user interface button when said television signal receiver is in an "off" state and said emergency alert function is activated, said processing means perform steps comprising turning said television signal receiver to an "on" state and presenting information based on said emergency alert signals, and wherein, responsive to a second depression of said single user input button, said processing means cause said television signal receiving apparatus to be returned to an "off" state," as described in currently amended claim 1.

Likewise, Ganzer also does not address the problem of setup difficulty of an emergency alert system, nor does it provide an indicator based on detection of signal strength and passage of a broadcast test. Instead, Ganzer teaches that a “geographically specific emergency alert system includes a code generator unit in which geographic areas to be alerted and types of severity of alerts are selected and code strings generated to represent the affected areas and alert types selected. The code strings are broadcast by modulating the audio carrier of a television signal and received on receiver units positioned in areas within the broadcast market of a television station providing the alerting service. Location codes or entered into the receiver units by the users according to the areas in which the receiver units are used. When an alert is broadcast, each receiver unit decodes a location code string in the signal. If it matches that set on the receiver, an alert code string is decoded to activate a alarm devices connected to the receiver, such as an audible alarm generator, LED, etc., in accordance with the type or severity of alert that was broadcast.” (Ganzer Abstract)

Ganzer does not disclose does not disclose a single button emergency alert interface which will turn a receiver on and present alert information upon a first press and return the receiver to an off state upon a second press. Therefore, Ganzer, like Manson, fails to disclose a television signal receiving apparatus “wherein, responsive to a first depression of said single user interface button when said television signal receiver is in an “off” state and said emergency alert function is activated, said processing means perform steps comprising turning said television signal receiver to an “on” state and presenting information based on said emergency alert signals, and wherein, responsive to a second depression of said single user input button, said processing means cause said television signal receiving apparatus to be returned to an “off” state,” as described in currently amended claim 1.

Naidoo also does not address the problem of setup difficulty of an emergency alert system, nor does it provide an indicator based on detection of signal strength and passage of a broadcast test. Instead, Naidoo teaches “an integrated home health system includes a television-based patient station, a first provider station for providing telemedicine or other healthcare services to a patient located at the patient station, a second provider station for providing caregiver services to the patient, a third provider station for providing emergency response services to the patient and a system management station coupled together by a data network. In addition to various management operations performed on behalf of the

integrated home health system, the system management station is further configured to provide various home health services to the patient located at the patient station, either alone, or in conjunction with one or more of the first, second and/or third provider stations.”
(Naidoo Abstract)

Naidoo does not disclose does not disclose a single button emergency alert interface which will turn a receiver on and present alert information upon a first press and return the receiver to an off state upon a second press. Therefore, Naidoo, like Manson and Ganzer, fails to disclose a television signal receiving apparatus “wherein, responsive to a first depression of said single user interface button when said television signal receiver is in an “off” state and said emergency alert function is activated, said processing means perform steps comprising turning said television signal receiver to an “on” state and presenting information based on said emergency alert signals, and wherein, responsive to a second depression of said single user input button, said processing means cause said television signal receiving apparatus to be returned to an “off” state,” as described in currently amended claim 1.

In view of the above remarks and amendments to the claims, it is respectfully submitted that there is no 35 USC 112 enabling disclosure provided by Manson, Ganzer, or Naidoo, alone or in combination, that makes the present invention as claimed in claim 1 unpatentable. It is further submitted that currently amended independent claims 8 and 15 are allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable. Since dependent claims 2-7, 9-14, and 16-21 are dependent from allowable independent claim 1, it is submitted that they too are allowable for at least the same reasons that their respective independent claims are allowable. Thus, it is further respectfully submitted that this rejection has been satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Having fully addressed the Examiner’s rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding amendments and remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the applicant’s representative at (609) 734-6804, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to
Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

\brian j cromarty\

By: Brian J Cromarty
Reg. No. L0027
Phone (609) 734-6804

Patent Operations
Thomson Licensing Inc.
P.O. Box 5312
Princeton, New Jersey 08543-5312
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